

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 308 - SB 697

February 17, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the grounds for the termination of parental or guardianship rights to include a parent or guardian being convicted, on or after July 1, 2015, of sex trafficking of children under federal law or a similar law in another state.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-113(g)(12), parental or guardianship rights may be terminated if the parent or guardian has been convicted of trafficking for a commercial sex act under Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-309.
- Expanding the grounds to include those convicted under 18 U.S. Code §1591 or a sex trafficking of children offense under the laws of another state that is substantially similar to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-309 will not significantly increase the number of parental or guardianship terminations.
- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), if parental or guardianship rights are being terminated under the provisions of the bill, there are other grounds currently in state law that DCS can use to terminate parental rights that would also be applicable to the case; therefore, the provisions of the bill will not result in additional children coming into state custody.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey L. Spalding".

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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